Committee, to offer scope for more pilgrims from India keen to visit Kailash Mansarovar;

(b) whether Government would ensure proper conservation and protection of the holy precincts of Kailash Mansarovar through a pact with the Chinese Government on the lines of Pant-Mirza pact of 1955 providing protection of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government would also consider joint upgradation of road leading to Kailash Mansarovar in consultation with its Chinese counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The present arrangement of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with various Central and State Government agencies is adequate in view of the relatively small number of pilgrims going for the Yatra.

(b) Deep religious sentiments of the people of India associated with Kailash and Mansarovar have been conveyed, from time to time, to the Chinese authorities, who are responsible for the protection and conservation of these holy places.

(c) Government have initiated steps to develop road upto the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side. Government have also proposed to the Chinese side to open an alternative route through Demchok, which has better connectivity of Kailash and Mansarovar in terms of road infrastructure.

Promotion of Hindi abroad

†3757. SHRI NAND KISHOR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were taught Hindi in Indian Missions abroad during the last three years, year-wise and Mission-wise;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to promote the use of Hindi abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has a well-formulated scheme for propagation of Hindi abroad. The Indian Council

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has deputed 10 Visiting Hindi Professors to the Chairs in foreign Universities/Institutions in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, South Korea, Trinidad & Tobago, Romania, Turkey, China, Suriname and Russia.

2. Fifteen Indian Cultural Centres have also been set up, one each, in Russia, Egypt, Mauritius, Guyana, Suriname, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Germany, Kazakhstan, Uzberkistan, Trinidad & Tobago, South Africa (Durban and Johannesburg), Sri Lanka an Tajikistan, primarily for promotion of Indian culture. Some of these Indian Cultural Centres, with active support of the Indian Missions/Posts, have been promoting use of Hindi and also its propagation in the country of their accreditation. These Centres organize Hindi classes as well as Hindi language-related activities, such as screening of Indian films, lectures, talks, seminars, conferences, Hindi Divas/Hindi Week etc. in the country of their accreditation. The Indian Cultural Centres, where Hindi teachers have been posted from India, have been specifically active by way of organizing, apart from Hindi classes, publication of magazines and *Kavi Sammelans*. Indian Missions/Posts have a special scheme to teach Hindi also to the children of Missions' personnel and other officials of organizations like airlines, banks etc. through Bal Hindi teachers appointed in some of the Missions/Posts abroad. Mission-wise number of students taught Hindi during each of the last three years is given in the Statement I. (*See below*).

3. In addition, the Indian Missions/Posts encourage foreign nationals to learn Hindi, also under a special scholarship scheme, in India at the prestigious Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. The number of foreign nationals taught Hindi under this scheme, during each of the last three years, Mission-wise, is given in the Statement II. (*See below*)

4. A World Hindi Secretariat is being set-up in Mauritius with the active support of India. The Secretariat will liaise with various Universities and organizations promoting Hindi all over the world.

5. Regional Hindi Conferences have been held at Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Kathmandu (Nepal), London (UK) and Miercuria Ciuc (Romania), during the last three years with the assistance and cooperation of the Ministry. Hindi officers have also been posted as Attache (Hindi)/ Second Secretary (Hindi) in six countries namely Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, UK, Nepal and Suriname. They have been liaising with different groups, organizations and scholars in these countries to propagate Hindi.

6. The VII World Hindi Conference was organized from 5-9, June, 2003 in Suriname. The official delegation comprised of 58 members. Representatives from various State Governments, universities and institutions in India also participated in the Conference. There was also good representation from abroad including delegations from Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Nepal, Russia, Japan, France, Poland, UK, Tajikistan, South Africa, Mauritius, Fiji, USA, Holland, Hungary etc. The VII World Hindi Conference was inaugurated on 6th June, 2003 by the President of Suriname Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan. Message of Hon'ble Prime Minister was telecast on this occasion, and a special First Day Cover was released by the Govt. of Suriname on this occasion.

7. On the occasion of Indian National Days, the Heads of Mission/ Post generally read out President's Address in Hindi also. The Indian Missions/Posts organize short cultural programmes immediately after the Flag Hoisting ceremony, and in some places an evening cultural function is organized wherein patriotic songs in Hindi are sung with active participation of India-based officials in the Mission/Post, as well as, members of the Indian community. Some Indian Missions also organize Hindi Essay Competitions and distribute Hindi books to libraries and academic institutions on National Days. Some of our Ambassadors/High Commissioners also give speeches in Hindi during National Day celebrations.

8. Hindi teaching material and related children's literature on various subjects such as Indian culture, art, literature, history and philosophy are sent to Indian Missions/Posts for their libraries and also for donating to educational institutions and various voluntary organizations engaged in promotion of Hindi. Sixteen prominent Hindi magazines are also sent to Missions/Post abroad. Teaching material, including textbooks, dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, computer software, CD-ROMs etc. are also sent on a regular basis.

9. Indian Missions/Posts maintain close contact with local organizations and people of the Indian community to meet their Hindi language requirements. Some of our Missions/Posts organize Hindi conferences, literary events, Hindi essay competitions etc. Some Indian Missions, such as Port of Spain, London, Yerevan and Kathmandu publish Hindi magazines which are very popular among the Hindi learners. In Trinidad & Tobago, some popular Hindi activities, like *Batt-Cheet* Club and *Sahityiki* Club and special "O" & "A" level Hindi exams are conducted and Hindi lessons on

Radio & print media are also started, by the efforts of the Indian High Commission. Indian Missions also provide financial assistance to organizations engaged in teaching and promotion of Hindi abroad.

10. Efforts are on towards achieving the goal of making Hindi as an official language of the United Nations (UN). A high level committee under the chairmanship of MOS (RIS) has been reconstituted to look into the matter.

11. Teaching Hindi language forms an integral part of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) training programmes. Intensive training on Government's Official Language policy and its implementation (Rules and Regulations) is given to the trainees.

Statement-I

Mission-wise number of students taught Hindi in the classes conducted by Indian Missions/Posts/Indian Cultural Centres abroad

Name of the Mission/ Post/Centre	Year 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Budapest, EOI	76	79	80
Canberra, EOI	00	06	05
Colombo, ICC	389	732	476
Dhaka, HCI	18	20	25
Dushanbe, EOI	35	22	80
George Town, HCI	00	00	14
Islamabad, HCI	00	00	60 * (2002-04)
Kampala, HCI	00	00	64
Munich, CGI	00	08	00
New York, CGI	73	80	76
Paramaribo, EOI	42	57	71
Sofia, EOI	00	35	38
Tashkent, ICC, EOI	50	60	90
Ulaanbaatar, EOI	22	19	27
Vladivostok, CGI	05	02	05
TOTAL	710	1120	1111**

** In addition to the above, 17 Hindi classes are being conducted at Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago and total number of students enrolled in these classes are 250.

Statement-II

Mission-wise number of Foreign Nationals taught Hindi in India, under scheme of propagation of Hindi abroad, during each of the last three years:

S. N.	Indian Embassy/ High Commission	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	-	-	01
2.	Bangkok (Thailand)	02	04	02
3.	Bucharest (Romania)	03	03	-
4.	Budapest (Hungary)	02	-	02
5.	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	04	12	09
6.	Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	01	05	-
7.	George Town (Guyana)	08	-	04
8.	Hanoi (Vietnam)	-	01	02
9.	Jakarta (Indonesia)	02	01	01
10.	Kyiv (Ukraine)	02	-	01
11.	Manila (Philippines)	-	-	01
12.	Minsk (Belarus)	01	02	02
13.	Minsk (Belarus) (for Lithuania)	01	-	02
14.	Moscow (Russia)	-	07	-
15.	Paramaribo (Suriname)	02	05	03
16.	Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago)	10	08	-
17.	Prague (Czech Republic)	01	-	-
18.	Rome (Italy)	-	03	-
19.	Sofia (Bulgaria)	03	03	03
20.	Stockholm (Sweden) (for Latvia)	-	-	01
21.	Suva (Fiji)	02	-	02
22.	Tokyo (Japan)	04	04	03
23.	Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)	-	05	02
24.	Warsaw (Poland)	03	01	-
25.	Yerevan (Armenia)	02	03	02
26.	Yerevan (Armenia) (for Georgia)	-	02	02
27.	Zagreb (Croatia)	03	03	-
	TOTAL:	**56**	**72**	**45**